

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## USED STAMPS FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS THROUGH CHRISTIAN MEDICAL GROUP

Japan's Christian Overseas Medical Cooperation Association has received wide support throughout Japan in a campaign to collect used stamps for sale overseas, with proceeds used to purchase BCG to fight Nepalese tuberculosis.

As of April 30 the Christian medical organization, active in support and sending of medical missionaries, had collected more than 35 million used stamps from 63,000 Japanese children and adults. Sale of the stamps provided funds for purchase of enough anti-TB vaccine to care for 50,000 Nepalese.

The campaign "Let's Buy BCG With Old Stamps" began in 1964 when Dr. Noboru Iwamura, then in Nepal, appealed to friends in Japan for help in fighting wide-spread tuberculosis in the Mountain Kingdom. A physician in Hokkaido suggested the stamp-collecting scheme, which was adopted by schools, congregations, and many groups outside the Church in Japan.

Declaring that "It will take two decades to eradicate tuberculosis in Nepal", the Christian Overseas Medical Cooperation Association indicates it will continue and expand its drive for public support of its project.

## NAZARENE MISSIONARY MISSING ON FLIGHT OVER SEA

An American missionary of the Church of the Nazarene is missing from his Chiba Prefecture home after taking-off on a round-trip flight to Oshima Island, 85 miles south of Tokyo.

Charles Melton, the missionary, disappeared on July 15 during a solo training flight in a single-engined sportsplane. Ships and planes of the Japan Maritime Safety Agency and Maritime Defence Force joined in a massive two-day



sweep of sealanes and rocks of the region without finding any trace of the missing man. Sports planes of the Tokyo Aviation Club also joined in the massive sea-air search.

Thirty years of age, Mr. Melton had been in Japan five years. As CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS went to press, his hometown address in the USA was not available.

#### ASIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN MEET IN TOKYO

Christian women of Asia met at Tokyo's International Christian University between July 15 and 26 for extended conversations on the subject "Lay Women in Home, Church, Society and the World".

To the meeting came more than 90 delegates and observers from Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Okinawa, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, The United States, West Germany, Lebanon, and the World YWCA. Hosts to the conference was the Japanese delegation, led by Mrs. Masae Harada, a lay leader of the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan).

After convocation on July 15, the delegates "settled-in" to a seven-hour-a-day schedule of lectures, conferences and seminars. Preacher to the assembly is Dr. Hans Margull, visiting Professor at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary.

#### PIONEERING SOCIAL WORK WINS RECOGNITION FOR NINETY-SIX YEAR OLD MISSIONARY

The Rev. Ulysses Grant Murphy, 96, received a package the other day at his home near Seattle, Washington. When he opened the suprise gift he found a vase enclosed, and a scroll signed by Zenko Suzuki, Minister of Health, the Government of Japan. The scroll read:

"You, as the pioneer of the abolition of licenced prostitution, endeavoured through many difficulties for the public welfare of the women in Japan, and you made a contribution toward enactment of a law passed ten years ago to abolish prostitution."

The "contribution" of the retired Methodist missionary dates from 1899, when an outraged Rev. Murphy brought action in a Nagoya court asking freedom for a women who had been sold at the age of 18 to brothel owners for \$300. Mr. Murphy's argument--with which a three-man panel of judged concurred--asserted that the sale of a girl by her parents amounted to slavery, even if the girl was a minor at the time of sale. With the decision a thriving legal trade in minor females ground to a halt, and panderers were forced to operate surreptitiously.

A United Press International story on the award quotes the aged Rev. Murphy as feeling "Pretty good, Pretty good", about the Japanese recognition of his efforts sixty years ago.

#### WOMEN'S GROUP LAUNCHES ATTACK ON JAPANESE, U.S., ASIAN POLICIES

A number of leading Christian women of Japan have joined in a bitter attack upon foreign policies of the Japanese Government and have lashed at tacit support



given some aspects of America's Vietnam effort by the Sato Cabinet.

At a meeting in Tokyo on May 15 an "Appeal to All Women in Japan" was issued by a group which included, as signatories, such well-known Christian women as Tamaki Uemura (Honorary president of the Japan YWCA) and Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro (President of the Women's Society for Moral Reform). The women, with 15 other intellectual and club leaders of Japan, addressed their countrywomen as follows:

"While giving publicity to the effect that it strives for peace, the Sato Cabinet is in actuality taking part in the Vietnam War, permitting the United States to establish more than 200 military bases in Japan and Okinawa...allowing Japanese crewmen to carry weapons to the battlefields of Vietnam, making "pick-up bags" for corpses, and undertaking the repair of battleships and planes...

"Japan denounced war for good in accordance with her 'peace constitution', a thing in which we take pride under the heavens. We Japanese women are no longer what we were before. Let us become awakened to the tasks we should fulfill, and lead people into active movement through activities such as discussion meetings or study groups in local organizations ...lest we once again be entangled in tragic warfare.

"Let us unite our hands", the women continued, "with the women in Vietnam; let us act in concert with the women in America; let us make flourish the movement against the Johnson Administration which is violating the Geneva Treaty by invading Vietnam and escalating the war."

Meanwhile, Japanese Professor and Christian leader Yoshiaki Iisaka, of Gakushuin University, Tokyo, reportedly told delegates to a World Conference on Church and Society at Geneva that a group of Japanese churchmen who visited the United States last August had brought "for the first time" to American churches a "consciousness of the seriousness of the problem of Vietnam" Kyodan-Reuter reports that Prof. Iisaka told the conference both the United States and China combine great power with messianic desire to save the world.

TWENTY FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIROSHIMA BOMB  
TO BE OBSERVED HERE ON AUGUST 6

In less than a month the people of Japan, with many others in the world, will pause to recall the day an atomic bomb exploded over the city and people of Hiroshima. In this country thousands of persons will journey to the once-stricken community to join in commemorative meetings convened by the city and by the various groups--often at odds with each other--who have made the city their headquarters.

The city the delegates will visit is new and gleaming, far different from the old educational and military center which disappeared in an instant more than two decades ago. Broad avenues--criticized as "too wide" when constructed--are now jammed with autos and busses. Factories ring the town. A baseball stadium, and rows of mercantile establishments, comprise the background against which is set the memorial park with its burned-out dome. In the streets a busy and industrious people go about their business, greeting foreigners with a matter-of-factness which displays the community's new status as an international city.

Human wreckage and scars of the explosion remain to be seen in Hiroshima by men and women who choose to search. On the hill above town a study center continues to look in a new generation for effects of the great blast. In certain areas of the town live groups of scarred and incapacitated persons. In everyone who was within miles of the town on that August day exists an unseen wound, the



recollection of a sudden and overwhelming death which would not go away after its first shock was felt, but remained to blemish unborn children and incapacitate many who thought they had escaped.

Yet, the trueist memorial of the blast, surely, is the rebuilt city. In its vitality, color, and evident sense of community, Hiroshima displays for the world the courage of the human creature, and the will of mankind to conquer both death and despair.

#### LINEs FOR THE LAYOUT MAN

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, Japan announces receipt of donations totalling ¥2,800,000 (\$7,775) from 416 schools, kindergartens and churches. The contributions will be used in relief of famine in India.

EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN have chosen to be repatriated to North Korea since the war. Existence of the repatriation agreement between Japan and North Korea is a source of recurrent irritation to the strongly anti-communist South Korean government.

JAPAN'S FINANCE AND INSURANCE INDUSTRIES pay the highest average wages in the Japanese economy--¥42,600 in 1965. Lowest average wages were paid in the mining and construction industries. Wages of women average at about half those of men. (SOURCE: Statistical Handbook of Japan).

THIRTY-SIX PER CENT of employed persons in Japan are union members.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF JAPAN (KYODAN) has 198,492 members, 1931 pastors, and 1612 churches as of March 31, 1966.

Sayonara from Tokyo!